

Young Scientists' Conference Announcement and Call for Abstracts

Jointly hosted by the:

Department of Science and Technology
Academy of Science of South Africa
South African Young Academy of Science
Organisation for Women in Science for Developing World
-South Africa National Chapter

Date: 13 – 14 September 2018

Theme: Winning the fight against corruption: A trans-
disciplinary approach

Venue: Gauteng, Johannesburg

1. Introduction

The Department of Science and Technology (DST), the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf), the South African Young Academy of Science (SAYAS) and the Organisation for Women in Science for Developing World -South Africa National Chapter (OWSD-SANC) will be hosting the Annual Young Scientists' Conference on 13 – 14 September 2018.

ASSAf, together with its partners, is seeking young scientists based in South Africa to participate in this conference. This multilateral conference will provide a platform for scientific exchange among senior and young scientists in addressing corruption which continues to hamper efforts aimed at promoting democratic governance, socio-economic transformation, peace and security, and the enjoyment of human rights on the African continent.

2. Background

At the Competition Law, Economics and Policy Conference at the Gordon Institute of Business Science in September 2017, Minister of Economic Development Ebrahim Patel noted that: Corruption costs the South Africa gross domestic product (GDP) at least R27 billion annually as well as the loss of 76 000 jobs that would otherwise have been created. A dire picture is painted of the continent as a 2015 report by former President Thabo Mbeki notes that up to US\$50-billion is lost through illicit flows out of the African continent every year.

South Africa is ranked as the 64th most corrupt country out of 176 countries in 2016 according to the 2016 Corruption Perceptions Index reported by Transparency International. That the effect of corruption in South Africa has seriously constrained development of the national economy and has significantly inhibited good governance in the country cannot be gainsaid.

The 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are an ambitious set of development targets to be met by 2030. They are considered to be holistic and all-encompassing with the promise to 'leave no one behind'. Goal 16 on 'Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions' includes commitments to fight corruption, increase transparency, tackle illicit financial flows and improve access to information. The inclusion of the SDGs as a measure of assessing a country's development track for example calls on country's to give a comprehensive assessment of the negative effects of corruption. Utilising multi-disciplinary approaches invariably aims to take into account the contributions that alternative disciplines, indicators and datasets can provide and thereby allowing for a broader understanding of corruption. Research by a range of institutions including academia, non-governmental organisations, policy think tanks, the private and public sectors, as well as the media, can help identify the causes, effects and types of corruption. This is crucial in understanding and fighting corruption. This conference will therefore aim to engage young scientists through a multidisciplinary and comprehensive approach to tackle the menace of corruption.

3. Conference Themes

The conference will explore the following sub-themes:

1. Research showing evidence gaps in tackling corruption and comparative studies across countries or regions

2. Multi-disciplinary approaches to an understanding of, solutions to and best practice measures in addressing corruption
3. Counting the human cost to corruption
4. Governance and government structures used in aiding and abetting or defeating corruption
5. Technology use in aiding and abetting corruption

Note: Further explanations of the sub-themes can be accessed on the ASSAf website at: <https://bit.ly/2lwnMot>

4. Eligibility

This call is open to early career researchers who are based in South Africa. Applicants should meet the following criteria to participate:

- Be based in South Africa
- Be under the age of forty (40)
- Be in possession of at least a Masters degree
- Have research interests in the conference sub-themes
- Commit to be present for the duration of the conference
- Submit an abstract that is relevant to the theme of the conference and will be the basis for a presentation at the conference
- Be willing to present and share current research results at the conference

5. Conference Participation and Application

ASSAf invites submission of abstracts for oral and poster presentations in one of the sub-themes indicated above. As part of underscoring the importance of addressing the theme of the conference, authors should clearly articulate their focus and argumentation as well as show how their abstract will contribute towards critical understandings and further interrogation of corruption. An inter-disciplinary approach is encouraged with an analysis of policy and recommendations for reform and programme designs where there are gaps.

The attached application form should be completed and sent to Edith@assaf.org.za Tel: +27 (0)12 349 6614 by **Tuesday, 31 July, 2018**. There is no registration fee to attend the conference. Further information about the conference will be circulated to successful applicants.

6. Call for Abstracts

6.1. Abstract Format and Submission

The abstracts should follow the following format:

- Abstract must not be more than 300 words (excluding Title, Author and Institution) in the attached form
- Abstract must be written in English
- Abstract title must be in boldface, capital letters (lowercase) and centered
- Abstract font must be Century Gothic 11 with A4 set up margins
- Abstract must include the following information:
 - o Title, Author(s), Institution(s)
 - o Name of first-author should be underlined (Please do not underline co-authors)
 - o Institutional affiliations, city, province for all authors

- The superscript numbering must be in front of each initial and surname of each author
- Where appropriate, the text may be structured using the following headings:
 - Introduction or Objectives
 - Methods
 - Results
 - Conclusions

6.2. Example of an abstract title

Assessment of risk factors associated with maternal mortality in rural Tanzania ← 14 pts, centered, lowercase and bold

¹ E Allah, ²G Mbaruku, ³K Kahn ← 11pts, centered
(presenting author to be underlined, number superscript in front of initial and surname)

¹ KEMRI/CDC Research and Public Health Collaboration, ²Ifakara Health Institute, ³MRC/Wits Rural Public Health and Health Transitions Research Unit (Agincourt)
(number superscript in front of organisation)

6.3. Oral Presentations

All oral presentations will be conducted in English.

6.4. Poster Presentations

Accepted posters will be displayed at the conference venue and full details and specifications will be provided in the abstract acceptance letter.

7. General Conference Information

For any further information on the conference please contact:

Ms Edith Shikumo Tel: +27 (0)12 349 6614 Email: Edith@assaf.org.za

Extended Application Deadline: 31 July 2018